

also on the pes varolii. The seventh nerve, and the divisions of the eighth, passed under it to their respective foramina, without being at all flattened or displaced.

A section of the tumour showed a dense structure of glandular firmness, made up of whitish arborescent fibres, leaving numerous interstices, which contained some gelatinous serum. The striae of white tissue were speckled here and there with black points, which proved to be coagulated blood, and sections of minute vessels. One half was shown to Dr. Walshe, who considered it to be a variety of encephaloid cancer, and rare, as occurring in the membranes, and not in the substance of the cerebellum.

In the thorax, the heart was found much enlarged, from dilated hypertrophy of the left ventricle. There were several patches of cartilaginous deposit at the bases of the mitral valves, and the aorta was somewhat dilated at its commencement, but healthy in its valves and lining membrane.

Old adhesions existed between the ribs and middle and lower lobes of the left lung; the latter organ was much congested, and the bronchiae filled with frothy mucus.

In the abdomen, there was nothing worthy of notice besides the kidneys, which were in an advanced stage of granular degeneration.

65. *Congenital Opacity of the Cornea.*—Dr. P. W. MACLAUGHLIN relates (*London & Edinburgh Monthly Journ. of Med. Sci.*, July, 1845) a case in which the eyes fourteen hours after birth presented the following appearance:—

"On neither was there the slightest trace of vascularity or purulent discharge; the left cornea was completely opaque; the right was in the same condition, on its inferior two-thirds, but the upper third was clear, the opacity terminating by a tolerably defined edge. At first, I thought that I could perceive this edge to change its position, as the child's head was inclined to one side or the other, which led me to suppose the opacity resided in the aqueous humour; but this I found to be a mistake. Never having seen such a case, and not being able to hear of one, I was led to form an unfavourable prognosis; but in this I was agreeably disappointed; for in a few weeks the edge of the opacity on the right cornea began to thin off, to become less defined, and at length to recede, so that a part of the pupil could be seen on looking straight at the eye, whilst at first it could only be observed by looking from above. It was long before any change could be perceived on the left eye; but about the beginning of January, *i. e.*, three months after birth, it too began to improve—the opacity at the upper part of the cornea becoming more diluted-looking, and by degrees disappearing. At this time it was curious to observe the infant instinctively depressing the eyeball, when any bright object was held before it, so as to permit its image to fall through the upper portions of the cornea.

When I was removed from that post, a few days ago, the improvement was gradually progressing. There is now only a small portion of the right cornea opaque, and the upper half of the left is tolerably clear.

MIDWIFERY.

66. *Simple Ulcers of the Neck of the Uterus.*—By Dr. ROONETTA.—Boyer denied the existence of simple ulcers of the os uteri, doubtless, in consequence of the little use made of the speculum in his time. Nevertheless, there is no more frequent disease, and it may be asserted that every woman who has leucorrhœa, lactescent or purulent, is affected with it, if they have not cancer. Five or six varieties of this affection are at this time under treatment in the wards of M. Jobert, Hôpital St. Louis, where we have had an opportunity of leisurely studying them by means of the speculum. It is so rare in private practice to have an equal number of patients under observation at one time, and so inconvenient, moreover, to examine them in a suitable manner, that the present opportunity of doing so is interesting. The disease, as far as regards the ulceration, presents itself under various forms;

but they all proceed from the same *causa*, hypertrophy of the neck. This hypertrophy, without doubt, precedes the erosion, and is sometimes accompanied with induration, sometimes with softening. The hypertrophic softening is sometimes considerable; we have seen the neck undulate, and even yield under the simple pressure of a pencil of agaric, like a stewed apple. In this condition the neck, from the absence of nerves in its tissue, presents no morbid sensibility. The ulceration appears, no doubt, consequent to this state, and is the natural process of chronic inflammation. The ulcers may have their seat on one or other lip, generally the superior, sometimes on both, and very frequently on one or other side; in some cases they cover the whole circle of the os, and in others they have their seat deep in the neck of the uterus, where they are concealed by the swelling of the anterior lip; but they may be discovered there by a means which we shall presently indicate; so much for the seat of the ulcers. As to their form, they are sometimes superficial,—simple aphthæ,—of the size of a lentil, having their seat in the edge of the neck, and more or less numerous; this is the most simple case; those aphthæ, however, sometimes extend, becoming conjoined together, and constitute a superficial erosion of more or less extent of a mapped form, and more or less irregular: the lesion then becomes much more serious. It is not necessary, however, that it should pass through the aphthous stage to arrive at this state, for it may originate primarily and to a great extent, from the inflammatory process alone. This species of ulceration presents a great resemblance to those large erosions of the superior part of the cornea, in form of a cross, described by Demours, and styled by Velpcan "ulcères à coup d'ongle;" it is, however, proportionately much larger. It may be compared more exactly to the surface of a suppurating blister; it is sometimes covered with granulations, bleeds easily, and is often even infiltrated with blood; thus its aspect is always red; it is not painful to the touch, either with the finger or a pencil. It is probable that these women, in whom there is hemorrhage after sexual intercourse, have some slight ulcerative lesion of this kind. In a third variety, the erosion is no longer a mere superficial excoriation; it is hollow, infundibuliform, semi-spherical, more or less deep, sometimes very deep. Its base is more or less foul; its surface is always of a bright red, and infiltrated with blood. The erosion then very much resembles certain hollow ulcers of the legs in varicose subjects, who have just been walking. This kind of ulcer often causes a notch on one side of the os uteri, near its opening, or on its free edge, but more generally on its superior lip, or towards the left lateral commissure. In some cases it affects the whole circle of the internal surface of the os, and hollows out a progressive cavity from above downwards. These hollow erosions must always be regarded with suspicion, more especially if they make any progress in depth, for their nature is frequently not simple; and if they have been so, they are liable to assume a bad character. It may be said, generally, that the ulcer is simple when its surface is granular. In regard to the third variety, it resembles the two preceding as to form, only it has its seat in the neck. In conclusion, we have thus observed three varieties of simple ulcers on the neck of the uterus; the aphthous, ulcerative abrasions, and hollow ulcers; they are all hemorrhagic, especially the latter, and are more or less granular. Hollow ulcers, not granular, are always to be regarded with suspicion. We have not included syphilitic sores of the neck, primary or secondary; these lesions do not in general exist alone, and they have, moreover, specific characters, which at present we need not mention.

Those affected with ulceration of the neck of the uterus are generally young, having seldom passed their thirtieth year; have usually had children, or miscarriages, and have been for some time subject to abundant leucorrhœa, and hemorrhages, or at least to fluxes of blood from the uterus other than the catamenial. Their constitution is often lymphatic, but this has not appeared to us very predominant. They are frequently dark women, with large black eyes, robust, ardent, in whom the pilo-erector system is much developed, indicating a great degree of vigour in the vitality of the dermic covering. These conditions may perhaps be regarded as predisposing causes of the hypertrophy, and the consequent ulcerations, owing to the congestive state of the skin, the mucous linings, and the neighbouring organs associated with it; these, however, are mere conjectures.

The patients affected with this disease present two kinds of symptoms. On the

one hand, an abundant leucorrhœa, with a lactescent discharge; on the other, symptomatic phenomena peculiar to most of the chronic affections of the uterus; viz., lassitude of the extremities, pain and dragging in the loins, hips, and thighs, want of appetite, and sometimes a painful spasmodic contraction of the sphincter ani. Those symptoms are accompanied with general languor, more or less troublesome.

A precise diagnosis can only be obtained by means of an accurate examination with the speculum. The "toucher" alone is insufficient; a state of hypertrophy merely can be ascertained by its means, but even then its degree can never be perfectly and clearly defined, however expert the examiner may be. In order to institute a thorough examination with the speculum, the patient must be placed, not on the edge of the bed, as is usually done, but on a table, with the hips very much raised, and the thighs bent backwards, so that the knees almost touch the abdomen. It is then only that the neck can be distinctly seen by means of a strong ray of natural light which falls obliquely on the fundus of the vagina from above downwards. Artificial light does not answer. In order to examine the whole porphyry of the neck, a double-valved speculum ought to be used, which on opening embraces it entirely. A single cylindrical speculum is not so serviceable for the first examination, as its opening does not include the whole hypertrophied mass. At first there is observed on the neck and fundus of the vagina, a quantity of purulent mucus; on wiping it away by means of an agaric pencil, the disease is then visible. The first thing that strikes the eye is hypertrophy of one or other lip, or of the whole of the os, and then the ulcerations with which it is complicated. When there is hypertrophy, with pus in the opening of the neck, ulceration, which is not visible, may be suspected. The following is the method which M. Joberth employs to discover this:—He withdraws the double speculum, and introduces the cylindrical one in one piece, and manœuvres it in such a way as to engage the os tineæ in the centre of its opening; he then inclines the handle of the instrument obliquely to the right or left, or from above downwards, in such a way as to cause the posterior opening of the speculum to slide in the opposite manner on the neck; he thus places one of the lips of the os on the edge of the opening of the speculum, and then pushes the instrument from above downwards, so as to separate the lips, which, from the softness of the tissues, is easily accomplished; a considerable portion of the neck then becomes visible, and the ulcerations are brought into view. These ulcers are generally very small, (like a lentil,) but, so far as they extend, are as readily seen as the others. When they are simple, their tendency is to progress from the interior outwards, rather than in the opposite way.

As to the *treatment*, nothing is more simple or certain. The disease is invariably cured in the course of a few months, by the means employed at St. Louis. Two lesions have to be considered, the one dependent on the other, viz., ulceration and hypertrophy. If there are merely aphthous ulcerations, slight cauterization with the acid nitrate of mercury, or even with the nitrate of silver, speedily produces cicatrization; the remaining hypertrophy, if it is not considerable, may be cured by the ordinary means. If it be to a great degree, the actual cautery is used for both lesions from the commencement. The latter treatment is also employed when the hypertrophy of the neck, though not considerable, is obstinate, and the leucorrhœa continues. The actual cautery is used for the other species of ulcers either by reverberation, or, which is more general, by its direct application to the ulcer, so as to produce an eschar more or less deep; it may be repeated in the course of eight or fifteen days. The cure is generally accomplished in the course of two, three, or four months; there is mitigation in regard to the pain and leucorrhœa during the first week. It seems probable, that concentrated heat causes such a modification in the diseased tissues, as to dispose to a healing process. We earnestly entreat attention to the above facts: the disease is very frequent and disastrous among all classes, and more especially in large towns.—*Annales de Thérapeutique*, April, 1845.

67. *Epidemic Puerperal Metritis in the Paris Hospitals*.—In a late No. of this Journal (Jan., 1845, p. 222), we noticed the extensive prevalence of erysipelas in all the Paris Hospitals; and it is therefore without surprise that we now learn that puerperal metritis of a very fatal character reigned in the Paris Hospitals about the same period. There is an interesting account of this epidemic in the *Gazette*